

DEMING GRAPHIC.

VOL. I Entered March 18, 1903, at Deming, N. M., as second class matter, under act of congress, of March 3, 1879.

DEMING, LUNA COUNTY, N. M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1903.

No. 11

LUNA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

A Serial Story of Its History, People, Stock, Mining and Commercial Industries, Railway Facilities and Educational Advantages.

Part I. Chapter III.

Mimbres Valley, by Hon. W. M. Taylor.

The Mimbres river rises about 85 miles north of Deming and runs south past Deming, thence south-east and sinks in the plains about 35 miles below Deming. Where it rises in the Black Range mountains, the first 25 miles of its course is through a deep canon the mountains on each side being covered with a heavy growth of pine, spruce, cedar, juniper, pinone and oak, from thence the valley widens from one half to one mile and for the next 35 it passes through one solid belt of farms and orchards. With a full crop, one million pounds, of apples alone, are produced in this valley, and as fine as ever grown, two orchards alone producing over 200,000 pounds each.

Peaches, pears, plums, apricots and quinces are raised to the acme of perfection. Grapes are also grown. Some vines on the fruit farm of W. H. Taylor resemble trees more than vines, being cultivated by the California method of pruning back to a stump, many vines exceeding six inches in diameter and producing over 100 pounds of the finest grapes. These orchards extend the whole length of the valley from where it widens to a point about 23 miles above Deming where the river sinks and flows under the gravel bed only running below this point in time of snow melt in the mountains.

About 12 miles of this irrigated por-

the under flow and will be 75 feet above the surface and will cost near \$300,000. They have a strong company organized, do not know when work will start.

Below the dam site is the ranch of M. Trujillo, who by the way is the only Mexican resident of our precinct. Mr. Trujillo is a good citizen, has a comfortable home and a small stock of cattle. Next place is that of James Billingslea 160 acres he has an orchard, about 50 acres of farming land and a pasture which affords an abundance of the finest grass in the country. The ranch of W. T. Gorman has 160 acres, about 60 in cultivation, has a large orchard of all kinds of fruit, has a large acreage in alfalfa and also a nice stock of cattle. Last year Mr. Gorman raised \$1,000 worth of corn all of which he sold for \$1.75 per hundred. He is a progressive man and a good citizen.

Next below is the property of W. M. Taylor which is divided in two lots of 41 acres each one being for pasture and timber and the other is in a high state of cultivation. He has an orchard of nearly 1,000 bearing trees, all heavily laden with fruit, perhaps no orchard in the valley has a better selection. Twenty-five acres are planted in corn which with a fair yield will produce 1,500 bushels. The balance is planted in melons, garden etc.

W. H. Taylor, father of W. M., has a fine orchard and nursery, he being the best nurseryman in the district and has demand for more stock than he can supply. He is propagating all the choice fruits of this latitude and is considered

Below this place is the farm of D. S. Gorman, he has 150 acres about 60 in cultivation. Mr. Gorman has a nice orchard, vineyard and alfalfa in abundance, he is one of the most extensive melon raisers in the valley, he is planting this season about six acres, and finding ready sale for all, he has of them at good prices, from \$20 to \$35 per hundred in the towns, and about half that price on field delivery, he has also a small bunch of cattle. Below

Mr. Gorman is the place of J. J. Jacobson, Mr. Jacobson has a new place of 160 acres and is improving it in a substantial way, he has an immense well 12 feet in diameter, sunk to bed rock, and an immense pump from which he irrigates a large field, he has also a fine bunch of cattle, and is manager of the Spaulding farm, of which we will treat later. Next comes the Old Town ranch, owned by H. H. Whitehill and sons, very little farming is done here, being used for a cattle and horse ranch. The Old Town is one of the oldest settlements in the south west, it was an old stage stand and government depot, and at one time had several hundred inhabitants, it was also a trading point for a vast extent, but it was abandoned on entry of the railroad, so now just a ranch remains of what was once a busy trading post.

Next below comes the Canaigre Cultivating Company's farm, owned by A. S. Spaulding, (the Base ball goods man) of Chicago, there is about 160 acres in this holding, about 160 acres are planted with Canaigre, which is used for tanning leather; regular shipments are made to eastern factories and as the plant is a native of New Mexico it is in its native element, and grows to perfection. Mr. Spaulding has all machinery, Cutters dryers and so on, to handle the crop, and has made a success. Mr. J. J. Jacobson is the ranch manager, they have about 200 acres of alfalfa and employ from four to ten hands the year round. Below this ranch the water sinks in the gravel bed, and no farming is carried on, only by windmills for small plats, gardens etc. along the entire Mimbres valley on either side are irrigating ditches and for the entire length more than 40 ditches are taken out, but it is deep to bed rock, the waters have a strong under flow. Rising near the surface in places so that ditches can be taken out but with all these ditches the under flow is just as strong below as it is higher up in the valley. The depth to water any where in the valley varies 4 to 20 feet. Some land is too wet to farm without draining, some does not need irrigation and some requires more irrigation than other, owing to the depth to water. The soil varies from 5 to 12 feet in depth underlaid with gravel.

Health in the valley is good, the air is pure and the water is chemically pure, same as at Deming. Our local markets are: Silver City, Santa Rita, Hanover, Fierro, Georgetown, Central City, and Deming, the county seat of Luna county, a progressive, thrifty town and the railroad center of south-western New Mexico. The writer has spent 21 years of his life here and noted conditions closely and predicts Luna county to be one of the leading counties in New Mexico in the near future.

A Luna County Orchard.

tion of the valley passes the new county of Luna; of this we will endeavor to give a fair description. Starting from the county line the first place is that of "Uncle Bob" Miller, a pioneer and a whole souled man. Mr. Miller has 160 acres of fine land, about 45 acres in alfalfa which cuts 5 to 8 tons of hay per acre, he has one orchard of about 1,000 fruit trees in a fine healthy condition. A portion of other land is used for corn, garden, etc. and balance is pasture and river woodland, in fact, all along the Mimbres valley is a fine growth of cottonwood, box elder, ash and willow furnishing plenty of fire wood.

Next below is the home of Cap. Foster consisting of 320 acres of land. He raises some fruit and alfalfa and also has a fine bunch of cattle. Opposite on the west side of the river is the property of Homer Tarbill, he has a nice place quite a good sized orchard and alfalfa. Mr. James Colson, below, has 160 acres, is farming to some extent but is devoting most of his time to raising cattle.

Below Colson's is the site of the big dam owned by Spaulding and Fisher of Chicago, where they propose to put in a dam to impound the flood waters of the Mimbres river and run it in canals down on the plains around Deming, where they have bought 50,000 acres of land which they will supply with water and sell in small tracts to settlers. This reservoir will be about one mile wide by two and one half miles long. The dam will be put down to bed rock and catch

an authority on horticulture and many of the orchards in the valley are the work of his hands. In connection with his fruit farm and nursery he raises quite a lot of alfalfa and has a small bunch of holstein cattle and some fine stock horses.

Mr. Taylor is one of the oldest residents in the valley settling here 21 years ago. He is an old frontiersman and pioneer of '49' going to California in that year and working in the mines there and in Nevada. "Uncle Gum" as he is familiarly called was one of the framers of the State Constitution of Nevada and afterwards served two terms in the State Legislature and six years as County Commissioner of Cuchilla county.

Below "Uncle Gum" is the place of his son, Oscar C. Taylor, who has a small orchard, alfalfa, garden and also small fruits. Mr. Taylor is justice of the peace for precinct No. 2 and the only case he has had in the last two years was to perform a marriage ceremony, so it seems the people are peaceable and have no time to get into trouble which speaks well for the community. The next place is that of B. F. Taylor, he has 120 acres of land about 60 in cultivation and a fine orchard. About 20 acres in alfalfa which produces a heavy crop, an average of 8 tons of cured hay to the acre. A large portion of the place is planted to beans, garden, etc.

Part II.

William M. Taylor was born January 29th 1862 in Sacramento county California, his father being a 49er pioneer. And in 1873 removed to Colorado and settled at Grenada in 1875, removed to Lampasas Texas living there until 1881 when the family came west again and settled in the Mimbres valley near Faywood hot springs where his father still resides. Mr. Taylor has followed various businesses since coming to the territory, agriculture, horticulture, stock raising, mining, and merchandising. In 1897 he was elected county commissioner of Grant county was released in 1900 and by the creation of Luna county in 1901 was chosen by the governor as one of the commissioners for Luna county, resigned six months later to follow other business pursuits but was again appointed by the governor to fill a vacancy in the board on the 16th of March of the present year. Mr. Taylor was married in 1884 to Miss Mary E. Benson of Lampasas Texas and has two living children by this union. He is engaged in agriculture and mining at the present time, owning some very fine mining properties.



The Pet of the Family.
(A MIMBRES VALLEY SCENE.)

entered a large mercantile establishment where his services soon became so valuable, that he was admitted in less than one year as full partner in the profits of the firm, and in a little less than 10 years, he owned one half interest in stock and business which averaged \$20,000 net profit annually for 10 years; thus earning the handsome little fortune of one hundred thousand dollars in ten years. At this period when his future indicated a phenomenal success, the great Revolution and Civil War followed. He enlisted in the 19th. Arkansas in April 1860, was elected 2nd Lieutenant and in less than six months was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and later to the full command of the regiment. His old comrades all unite in saying that he was one of the hardest fighters, and best providers in the army and was always held in high esteem by his commanding officer, subordinates and men. He participated in the battles of Dug Spring, Wissons Creek, Pea Ridge, Little Rock, Pleasant Hill, Mansfield, and many smaller conflicts. He always had a holy horror of being a prisoner and would run any risk to avoid capture. On two occasions when the confederate army was defeated and the white flag was raised for surrender he and his comrades cut their way out at heavy loss but making good their escape, though courteous to his officers and men and loved by all. At the same time he was a strict disciplinarian, and never failed to be on time where duty called. Two months before the war ceased he was detached from the regular service and sent to Europe on an important mission, and was the only one of three, (Gen. Palen Acque, and May Merrill) who accomplished the objects for which they were sent, before Lee's surrender.

The war wiped out his fortune, most thoroughly, and in 1865 he commenced life a new, with that energy and determination that always win; and not withstanding that in the last thirty years; during the several severe panics which disturbed the finances of the country, and brought ruin to thousands, He in common with many others made heavy losses, but always recovered quickly and in time made good every just obligation.

He has always been thorough going progressive and enterprising in all his undertaking; has brought hundreds of thousands of dollars of capital into New Mexico, to be invested in various enterprises, many of which have been very successful. In twenty years he has not failed in a single instance in financing any enterprise which he has taken up and recommended. His oldest acquaintances are his best friends, and his following is, now larger than ever before. I have known him intimately, since boyhood to this date (Nov. 23d 1899). And he is the same refined, courteous and accomplished gentlemen that he was when I first knew him, perfectly fearless in danger, yet loving peace, kind and generous to a fault.

Col. Smith is President of the Deming Real Estate and Improvement Co. which is the largest Real Estate Association in south west New Mexico.

He was largely instrumental in securing the location of the National Colony and Sanitarium for consumptives at Deming, which is destined to become the greatest and most extensive institution of the kind in the world. He has always worked for New Mexico and especially for Deming.

By An old comrade.
S. C.



Dr. F. E. Collins.

Dr. F. E. Collins is a native of the state of Illinois and received his early education in the public high school of Oswego, after leaving the high school he took a course in the Chicago College of Dental Surgery, graduating with high honors in the class of 1900. On completing his course he went to California where he practiced his profession at Los Angeles for about four months from there he came to New Mexico the fall of the same year practicing his profession in the mining camps of Grant and Sierra counties until September of the following year when he located at Deming. He has a neat and convenient suit of rooms in the Allison block on Silver avenue, just south of the central telephone office. During the nearly two years he has succeeded, by his superior skill as a dentist and his pleasing manner as a gentleman in establishing an extensive practice and his customers are his best solicitors, as he allows no cheap work to go from his office.

Col. P. R. Smith whose portrait appeared in last weeks' issue of the Graphic and who wrote the article on the climate of Luna county was born in Tennessee in 1833; emigrated with his parents to Arkansas 1842, where his father died in 1843, thence with his mother and two younger brothers emigrated to western Texas where he was their sole support for three years when his mother married, a wealthy farmer. Thus relieved of the burden and obligation of mother and brothers at the early age of 13 years, he launched out on his own responsibility; working on a farm for two years, and then as clerk in a dry-goods store for two years. In these 4 years he saved up money enough to pay his way in College for three years doing double work the greater part of the time and only needed one term more for a complete College course, and Diploma. But his fund had run low and much to his regret he had to give up College though he kept up his studies and finished the College course in private that is, he completed the course which would have entitled him to a diploma with first honors, if he could have remained at College. At this time he



Hon. W. M. Taylor.